

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 2nd March 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU FILLAI Avargal, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

NEW MEMBER.

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur MYLAI CHINNATAMBI RAJA Avargal made the prescribed oath of allegiance to the Crown.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Agency Fituri.

Police force at the Agency fituri area.

* 225. Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of police force ordinary and striking force working in the rebellion (fituri) area of Vizagapatam district;

(b) the number of police officers working in the said area; and

(c) the necessity for continuing the same?

A.—(a) & (b) The ordinary police force in the area consists of two Sub-Inspectors, four head constables and 27 constables at the two stations of Chintapalle and Krishnadevipet. A striking force of fifty East Coast Special Police with the requisite Non-Commissioned officers and two jamadars under the command of a British officer is also patrolling the area.

(c) These are required for the maintenance of order.

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Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"It is stated in the answer that the requisite Non-Commissioned officers are there with the Special Police. May I know what is the number of Non-Commissioned officers?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"I am afraid, Sir, I must have notice. Probably about four."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Does Government have any information that there is necessity for maintaining order by a striking force besides the ordinary police?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"As a matter of caution, though the fituri has finished, we have thought it still desirable to keep a section of the East Coast Special Police in the area. I am not quite prepared to say for the moment that it is an absolute necessity. It is a matter of precaution."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I have the answer elucidated? Does this not involve extra cost?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"No. The men are already available in the East Coast Police. The only extra expense would possibly be in the form of batta."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Does it mean that employed somewhere or other, the Special Police will involve that cost?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"The force is already in existence. Any extra expense incurred in posting that force to the fituri area for patrolling will be small."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"In view of the fact that the hon. the Home Member has not altogether convinced himself of its absolute necessity, may I know whether he has considered the question of reducing this force?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—"It is not my concern, Sir, but that of my hon. Colleague the Law Member. So far as my department is concerned, the force being in existence and available for assisting the local police, it has been posted for the present in that particular area."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Has there not been a committee with reference to this matter?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It has made its report."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Will that be laid on the table of this House?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It will be, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether he has considered or will consider, in view of the hon. the Home Member's statement, whether this force may not be reduced?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I do not concede that my hon. Colleague, the Home Member, has admitted the necessity for retrenchment. The question of retrenchment has been considered, and that is the conclusion of the matter."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I ask the hon. the Home Member what the materials are on which he has come to the conclusion that these are required for the maintenance of order?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The opinion of the local officers who have investigated into the circumstances."

Depressed Classes.

Use of the public well in Suramangalam police station by the depressed classes.

* 226 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the depressed classes are prevented from taking water from the public well in the compound of the Suramangalam police station, Salem district; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to make enquiries into the matter?

A.—(a) The well in the compound of the Suramangalam police station, Salem district, is intended for the use of the police staff and is not a public well.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"With reference to clause (a), may I know whether any exemption is made in the Government Order passed on the 25th August 1924 to the effect that the public cannot have free access to the wells provided in the police lines when there is water scarcity?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid I do not remember the terms of the Government Order. If the hon. Member wishes me to interpret a particular Government Order I must ask for notice."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I point out that the Government Order which was passed on the 25th August 1924 was to the effect that all classes should have free access to the public wells, whether they are either in municipal area or in police lines?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"May I point out that it is not a public well? The answer to the question says so."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Though it is not a public well, if all but the depressed classes have access to it, will the Government be pleased to issue instructions to allow the depressed classes also to use the well?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I do not see any foundation on the papers for the suggestion that the non-depressed classes have access to it. That seems to be a presumption of my hon. Friend."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"Will the hon. Member kindly inquire into the matter and see that, if other classes are given access to it, the depressed classes also are given the same facility?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am prepared to say at once that any facilities given to any other class of people will be given to the depressed classes also."